ASSESSMENT OF PROGRAM EFFECTIVENESS
CITY OF CALABASAS
FY 2007-08

PERMIT COMPLIANCE
The City of Calabasas has maintained full compliance with the NPDES permit requirements. The City has a dedicated Environmental Services Supervisor to oversee the complete implementation of the permit requirements. In addition to just meeting the minimum permit requirements, the City has an overall commitment to the protection and enhancement of their receiving waters.

EFFECTIVENESS EVALUTATION
One indicator of the effectiveness of the City's stormwater management program is the health of the local creeks. The City has been conducting water quality monitoring in all three creeks with goal of restoring all beneficial uses and completely removing them from the 303(d) list of impaired water bodies. This will become more evident as the watershed carries out the implementation plan of TMDLs.

STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES
A major strength of our storm water program is that it enjoys the full support of both the departmental staff and the City Council. Having this kind of support lends to the program a genuine teamwork approach with full commitment to affecting a positive difference in the health of our watershed. Another strength is that the program is coordinated entirely by two dedicated individual, the Environmental Services Supervisor, which lends consistency and responsibility to the program. A part-time Environmental Services Assistant also supports the ESM and stormwater programs. Last but not least, a major strength of our storm water program is our partnership with the other watershed Cities through the Watershed Management Committee.

HIGHLIGHTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- During the 07-08 reporting period, the city completed the construction of a high profile creek restoration project on Las Virgenes Creek. The primary goal of the project was to restore the natural function of this concrete-lined section of Las Virgenes Creek. This was accomplished by re-establishing the existing flood control facility in an environmentally harmonious and sensitive fashion. 440 feet of concrete liner was removed, and the channel was planted with native vegetation. The project was part of a larger creek restoration and rehabilitation vision developed by the City of Calabasas and called "Creeks Master Plan". A critical secondary goal was to provide an opportunity for the community and for visitors to the area to view a naturally functioning stream and to sensitize them to the importance of habitat restoration. The project implemented environmentally sensitive flood management based on a naturally functioning, sustainable stream, which anchors a healthy habitat for both

wildlife and humans. The project established direct connectivity between the two existing riparian communities to the north and south of the current concreted segment, afford better cover for wildlife and promote increased movement of animals up and down the creek corridor. The project was started on July 2007 and was completed in February 2008.

- The City has three CDS units to remove trash and debris from our creeks that contribute flow to the LA River and Malibu Creek Watershed. Every year, the city removes more 50 tons of trash and sediments from the three CDS units, therefore preventing the waste from entering the City's creeks.
- Under the Clean Beaches Initiative program, the city completed installation of a infiltration/bioremediation of dry weather urban runoff in storm drain outfalls along Las Virgenes Creek. The device is being cleaned-out on quarterly basis and several tons of sediment and trash is being removed from the device.
- City of Calabasas administers the Malibu Creek Watershed Monitoring Program funded partially through the prop 13 grant. The monitoring was completed and the final report was submitted to the SWRCB and the RWQCB on March 30, 2008. This program monitored water chemistry, conducted bioassessments, and analyzed fish tissue and other field parameters to identify baseline conditions throughout the watershed.
- City installed about 3,200 storm drain markers on all storm drain within the city boundaries. The markers are made out of aluminum and are more durable and visible that stenciling.

WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS

The LA River trash TMDL is being complied with through construction of two CDS units over this watershed. They provide end-of-pipe treatment of flows coming from a majority of the residential and commercial land use areas which contributes to the LA River Watershed. Another CDS unit is in operation over the Malibu Creek Watershed. City also partners with other jurisdictions to conduct water quality sampling for the Malibu Creek Watershed bacteria TMDL Compliance program. Sampling was started on March 11, 2008.

INTERAGENCY COORDINATION

The Cities of Calabasas, Agoura Hills, Malibu, Westlake Village, the County of Los Angeles and Clatrans have been actively using (by meeting monthly instead of quarterly) the Watershed Management Committee forum to coordinate regional solutions and help each other implement consistent programs for Permit compliance. The organizing to implement the Malibu Creek Watershed Monitoring Program, conducting joint staff training workshops, combining funds for media purchases, and the preparation and submittal of the Malibu Creek Integrated TMDL Implementation Plan are several examples of the on-going interagency coordination in this watershed.

FUTURE PLANS

The City is looking for sources of funding to place screens on all catch basin inlets throughout the City. A proposal to install screens made out of recycled plastic was submitted to the LA County Flood Control District but was denied. The proposed screen would have been installed flush to curb (which would make it easy for street sweepers to collect trash and sediment built in front of it) and because it covers only ½ of the height of the inlet opening, would accommodate bay pass of water during heavy rail fall. City is still pursuing the proposal.

SUGGESTIONS

Aside from the need for improving communication between County services and City staff and implementing better effectiveness evaluation methods, the existing stormwater program is well suited to effect a positive change in the health of our receiving waters.